

KEDLESTON HALL.

THE BEAUTIFUL SEAT OF THE CURZON FAMILY IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE.

Kedleston Hall, the ancestral manor-house of the Curzon family, the name of which appears in the title recently conferred upon the new Viceroy of India, has for the last one hundred and thirty years been the show-sight of South Derbyshire. It stands upon a site which has been the home of the Curzons for eight hundred years, ever since the founder of the family, Giraline de Curzon, came with the Conqueror from France. Two earlier structures preceded the present magnificent hall, which was begun in 1756, when the head of the family was Sir Nathaniel Curzon, M. P., the fifth baronet and the first peer. There appeared some months ago in "The Magazine of Art," published by Cassell & Co., Limited, an illustrated article descriptive of Kedleston Hall. A few of the pictures which accompanied this article are here reproduced, and some of the most interesting facts regarding the architecture of the structure are noted.

Sir Nathaniel Curzon, having conceived the idea of building a more imposing manor-house upon the old site, entrusted its designing to Mr. —afterward Sir—Robert Adam. The latter had travelled widely through Southern Europe, and had studied carefully the best forms of classical architecture. He had built many noble edifices in various parts of England, but upon Kedleston



BRIDGE IN KEDLESTON PARK.



KEDLESTON HALL—THE MAIN FRONT.

he spent all the resources of his learning and invention, and it was regarded by the men of his time as his masterpiece. The original conception of the architect was of a central block, from the four angles of which should spring curving corridors, connecting it with four smaller blocks or pavilions. Only two of these corridors and pavilions—those on the north front—were finished. In one other respect the hall was left incomplete; the central block was built of gray stone, while the upper stories of the pavilions were merely faced with stucco upon a background of brick. But in spite of these flaws in the execution of the design, the hall is a splendid architectural creation.

THE CLASSICAL STYLE CARRIED OUT.

Adam undertook the task of planning the house with the utmost thoroughness and patience. He carried his enthusiasm for the classical style into the smallest details of the decoration and the furnishings. Bookcases, mirrors, even the fenders and fireirons, were specially designed, and chairs and tables were made for just the places where they were to stand. The central pavilion of the house is faced by a portico with columns thirty feet high. These are modelled after those of the Pantheon at Rome, and some of them are hewn out of a single stone. A diverging stairway, meeting on a platform under the pillars, leads to the first floor. Here it was Adam's plan to group the state rooms and the chief living apartments, the bedrooms to be above and the offices below. The central block was to be the place of entertainment and magnificence. In the east wing was the family residence and the west wing contained the kitchen and servants' quarters.

The most remarkable rooms of the interior are the marble hall and the domed saloon beyond it, which together occupy the whole breadth of the building. The former of these is intended to reproduce the great halls of the Roman palaces, and is sixty-seven feet long and forty-two feet broad. The ceiling, which is forty feet high, is lighted from above, and is supported upon twenty fluted Corinthian columns of red-white Derbyshire alabaster, a highly decorative stone. Round the walls, in niches, are casts of famous statues, and higher up are frescoes of scenes from Homer. The saloon beyond the marble hall is a circular room, forty-two feet in diameter. From the polished floor to the top of the skylight in the great dome, the height is sixty-two feet.

WORK WELL DONE.

Nearly twenty years ago, when the rooms were redecorated, it was found that the gilding of the roses in the lozenge-shaped compartments of the dome was so fresh that it did not need to be renewed. The work had been well done to make so good a showing after the lapse of over a century of time. All the rooms on this floor are laid with floors of yellow oak. Opening

from the marble hall at the right is the dining-room, which contains a wealth of decoration. There are paintings of landscapes and other subjects let into the walls and ceiling, by artists such as Zuccarelli, Zucchi, Snyder and Claude Lorraine. The sideboard furniture, in an alcove, was designed by Adam to suit the room and to harmonize with the old silver plate which had been in the family since the reign of William III.

Other apartments on this side of the central block are the antechamber, the state boudoir and the state bedchamber and dressing-room. The blue silk with which their walls were originally hung is still there in good condition, and the old family portraits lend especial interest to the interiors. On the left of the marble hall and saloon are the music-room, the library and the large drawing-room. In these three apartments are gathered the best pictures in the house, including examples of Rembrandt, Cuyper, Paul Veronese, Tintoretto, Andrea del Sarto, Vandyck, Claude, Sir Peter Lely and others.

In the drawing-room the large window and the doors are framed with cases and pillars of the same alabaster as the columns in the marble hall. There are sofas of especial beauty, with their carved and gilded figures. All these rooms are connected by double floors of solid mahogany of wonderful beauty of finish.

BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS.

The surroundings of Kedleston Hall are as charming as itself, exhibiting much skill in landscape gardening. An open expanse of park-land slopes down to the water, where a brook that follows the valley was broadened out to form a series of lakes, covering about twenty-three acres. In front of the house it has the appearance of a winding river. On the ridge behind the hall there is a belt of trees which form a fine background for the gray pile below them. On the north front the slope permitted the construction of a series of little cascades in the widened stream, and the largest of these is spanned by a graceful stone bridge. South of the house are stately lawns, with old-fashioned pleasure-grounds and shrubberies among the ancestral trees. It is on this south facade of the hall that the dedicatory motto is inscribed, "Amici et Sibi."

A DURIUS COMPLIMENT.

From The Detroit Free Press.

"I'll tell you a story about President Cleveland that you probably never heard," said a prominent Detroitite the other day. "One of those rascally leaders in Washington who sometimes find their way into office rented the house of an aged widow who was dependent on that source for her entire income. He put her off from month to month, and finally laughed in her face as he told her that he wouldn't pay, and that she couldn't make him pay. He would not go out till the law put him out, and he would avail himself of all the delays possible. She consulted a lawyer who had been a friend of her family for years, but the lawless officeholder was even more impudent to him. The case was so hard that he went personally to the President, who heard the facts and then said in an indignant tone: 'Get the fellow's note.'"

"But his note isn't worth the paper it is written on."

"No matter. Get his note and bring it to me."

"There was no trouble in carrying out this request, the debtor expressing his delight at being allowed to settle at the trouble of writing a worthless obligation. The lawyer took it to the President, and said: 'Now what?'"

"This," replied the President, as he wrote his name across the back. "I endorse it; now demand payment."

"The officeholder was in a leading hotel when the lawyer walked up to him and asked a settlement as he handed him the note. The fellow sneered until he turned the paper over. Then he turned purple, stammered out a request that the lawyer wait there for ten minutes, and inside of that time he was back with the money. From then on he was smart enough to pay as he went, and now plumes himself on the fact that the President of the United States once indorsed his personal note."

THE EMPRESS'S MARRIAGE DISPOSED OF.

W. E. Curtis in The Chicago Record.

The story of the marriage of Li Hung Chang to the Dowager Empress of China is absurd. He might as well be expected to marry Queen Liliuokalani. Earl Li is already a married man. According to the laws and customs of China he may take as many more wives as

he can support, but they will be regarded as concubines. They will have to attend upon the first wife as servants, and, as long as she lives, occupy comparatively menial positions. The Empress Dowager could not, of course, accept any such position.

WHY CHILDREN SQUINT.

SHOCKS TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND FEBRILE DISORDERS OFTEN THE CAUSE.

From The London Standard.

In a learned paper on the subject of convergent strabismus by Professor Priestley Smith, which constituted the last Bowman Lecture of the Ophthalmological Society, it is stated that the onset of strabismus is often attributed to a fit, a fright, a fall, or other such occurrence, and still more often to an illness such as whooping-cough or measles. Making allowance for the frequency of such events among children, and for a certain disregard of time and sequence in their elders, it seems to me, says Professor Smith, highly probable that these supposed causes are very often real causes. Some such explanation of the onset was given, with show of reason, in more than two-fifths of my cases, and the proportion would no doubt have been higher had not many of the patients been brought by persons who knew nothing of their antecedents. In many cases the history was definite and not to be upset by cross-examination. For example, a child who had never been seen to squint before came from school squinting badly, having that morning been put into the corner with a cloth over her head; another did the same immediately after having his head pushed into a bucket of water by his brother; another after sitting in scalding water; another after being terrified by a monkey which jumped on to her shoulder. No less clear in many cases was the history of onset during measles, whooping-cough, or other constitutional disorders.

All these are conditions which may gravely disturb the nervous system. Shock, anger, or apprehension impair the control of muscular action; they cause the knees to shake, the voice to tremble, and even the hand of the ophthalmic surgeon to become unsteady. Febrile disorders cause delirium, convulsions, and sometimes transient strabismus, and leave the nervous system exhausted. Is it not highly probable that such disorders occurring in young children may interrupt the action of those higher centres which control the movement of the eyes, and this not only where control is already difficult by reason of amblyopia, or error of refraction, but even in children whose visual apparatus is normal for their time of life, but not yet fully developed? The old idea that the squinting child needs a little skillful surgery and nothing more is dying out. Most people know that glasses are often necessary. But that the child may require teaching, at some trouble, to use the squinting eye, is a new idea to many. It is easily grasped, however, and must be grasped if our efforts are to be effective. I have used the word educative as a help in that direction. Of course, there are parents and there are children on whom all time and trouble spent in this way are entirely thrown away, but on the whole I have been surprised at the care and patience with which directions have been carried out, even in homes where one might least expect it.

CHEAP LEGAL ADVICE.

From The Paducah (Ky.) Sun.

The other day an old fellow slouched into Attorney Oscar Kahn's office on Legal Row, and introduced himself as Mr. Smith, Jones, Brown or something, of a neighboring county. He said he wanted to consult a lawyer, and was accorded a seat and one of the attorney's sweetest smiles.

He then explained that while he was away from home the Sheriff or some deputy had attached his wife's sewing-machine and bureau for taxes. He didn't propose to tolerate such imposition, he declared, and came to Paducah to consult a lawyer about it.

"What is the amount of taxes?" inquired the lawyer.

"Lemme see—a dollar and twenty-eight cents," was the reply.

The lawyer could not conceal a smile, but hastened to say: "Well, Mr. Smith, if you want my advice, it is to go back and settle that small amount. It looks like the easiest and best way out of it."

The old fellow thought a moment, and replied that he believed he would. Answering, he asked: "How much do I owe you?"

"Oh, nothing, sir," was the reply. "I won't charge you anything for a little advice like that."

"But I allus pays fer whut I git, and want ter pay yer jes' the same."

"Oh, that's all right; come in again some time when you need advice on something more important, and we'll square it then."

"Naw, I want ter pay it now. Jes' squeal out. Ef it's 25 cents, I'll pay it. Ef ye want fifty, there it is!" And he threw down a half-dollar and left.

GOSSIP AT THE CAPITAL.

THE MOTHER OF FITZHUGH LEE, WHO HAS RECENTLY DIED, AND HER INTERESTING LIFE.

CYRUS ADLER'S WORK IN ENGLAND—TRANSFERRING BIG SKELETONS—A NEW SIAMESE ENVOY.

Washington, Nov. 12.—The explosion at the Capitol on Sunday conveys a warning which Congress would do well to heed. Happily, the valuable papers, archives of priceless worth, having important and incalculable value to the students and writers of history, while damaged to some extent, were not entirely destroyed, and it is hoped can be restored; but that they were not consumed by fire or soaked with water is not owing to any precaution taken by the authorities having them in charge. The shiftless manner in which the state papers are stored has long been a public scandal, and Congress and the officials having the care of these valuable documents have frequently been urged to gather the precious manuscripts together in a fireproof building specially arranged for their preservation, where they would be accessible to scholars and students. It is a pet idea with Mr. Young and his staff that these papers should be deposited in the Library of Congress, but it matters little where they find a resting place so long as they are accessible to the students of today and are preserved for posterity.

The mother of Fitzhugh Lee, who died recently at the advanced age of ninety years, was before the war days a belle in Washington. Her father, John Mason, was the son of that illustrious patriot and statesman George Mason, one of the framers of the American Constitution. From his father, Mr. Mason, who was at one time United States Senator and an actor in the Mason-Sliddell affair, inherited Anacostia Island. His daughter, subsequently Mrs. Lee, was known in her young womanhood as "beautiful Nannie Mason, of the island," and reigned supreme in the hearts of the aristocratic young nabobs of the locality.

Mrs. Lee's girlhood was passed mainly at Arlington and Mount Vernon. It was at the former historic place that she was wooed and won by Lieutenant Sydney Smith Lee, elder brother of General Robert E. Lee, who resigned his commission in the United States Navy to accept one in the Confederacy. Mrs. Lee was an exceptional woman. Beautiful in person, forceful in intellect, spiritual in character, she retained all those traditions to which Southern women owe their charm.

The friend and companion of the clever men and beautiful women of her day, Mrs. Lee, whose mind remained clear and unclouded to the end, was wont to chat interestingly of the happenings of a half-century ago to those who were admitted to her intimacy. One of her most cherished experiences was the meeting of M. Egalité and his brother, who were for several days guests under her father's roof, charming all during their visit by their sprightly conversation and polished manners. M. Egalité was, as will be recalled, Louis Philippe, and years afterward, in appreciation of the hospitality shown him, Mr. and Mrs. Mason received from that royal personage the gift of a solid silver service, exquisite in design and workmanship. Mrs. Lee had the privilege also of meeting the Prince of Wales when he visited this country, having been a guest at the dinner given in his honor by President Buchanan when her friend and intimate, Harriet Lane Johnston, presided. Her escort on that occasion was the Duke of Newcastle, and she had the good fortune of being seated next to Albert Edward, of whose vivacity of manner and gayety of spirits she preserved a most pleasant recollection.

With the other members of her family Mrs. Lee sympathized with the South, and during the four years of the Civil War remained in Richmond, cheering those about her during that period of despondency and despair, carrying comfort and help wherever she went, and winning by her cheerfulness, courage and devotion the sobriquet "Star of Hope" from her brother-in-law, General Robert E. Lee. With Mrs. Lee passed a fine soul, the best type of a woman of the last generation.

Dr. Cyrus Adler, Librarian of the Smithsonian Institution, has returned from London, where he went as a delegate from this country to the conference held at Burlington House on an International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. This project had its birth at the Smithsonian Institution a number of years back, and commends itself not only to students, but to all thinking people. Dr. Adler attended the first informal conference held in Oxford in 1894, and has been in correspondence concerning it since that time. He is by his profession and training eminently fitted for the work, and in naming him to represent the United States at the recent conference in London the Secretary of State made a most admirable selection. Eighteen nations were represented in this conference. Dr. Adler's report, shortly to be made public, will show the progress made and the practical work done on the projected catalogue.

In common with all Americans who visited England last summer, Dr. Adler met with a hearty reception; was, in fact, a persona grata. His work and reputation have won for him an enviable place in the literary world of Great Britain, and during his last visit he was feted and lionized to an extent that might have turned the head of a man less well-balanced.